

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-14 (Cancelled)

Claim 15 (New) A playback apparatus for playing back an optical disc, the playback apparatus comprising:

a judging unit operable to judge whether a disc region code assigned to an optical disc matches an apparatus region code assigned to the playback apparatus;

a reading unit operable to read a content identifier of content recorded on the optical disc;

a secondary recording medium including a disc corresponding region (i) that corresponds to the optical disc and (ii) has additional data recorded thereon which corresponds to the optical disc; and

a playback unit operable to (i) play back the content when the judging unit judges that the disc region code matches the apparatus region code and, (ii) unless an exceptional playback is authorized, not play back the content when the judging unit judges that the disc region code does not match the apparatus region code,

wherein the exceptional playback is a playback of a virtual package created by combining at least some of the content recorded on the optical disc and at least some of the addition data from the disc corresponding region of the secondary recording medium that corresponds to the optical disc, and

wherein the exceptional playback is authorized when a combination of the content identifier read by the reading unit and the apparatus region code satisfies a predetermined condition defined by an owner of the rights of the content.

Claim 16 (New) The playback apparatus of claim 15, wherein:

the content includes an AV stream, playlist information, and a dynamic scenario;

the AV stream is a stream obtained by multiplexing a video stream, an audio stream, and a subtitle stream;

the playlist information is information including one or more pairs of start time

information and end time information in a playback time axis of the AV stream, each pair of start time information and end time information defining a playback section;

the dynamic scenario is a program that causes the playback apparatus to play back the playlist information;

the additional data is any of the AV stream, the playlist information, and the dynamic scenario supplied to the playback apparatus via a network; and

the playback of the virtual package includes (i) a playback of one of an additional audio stream and an additional subtitle stream that are not recorded on the optical disc, and (ii) a playback of a playback section of the AV stream that is different from the playback section defined by the playlist information of the optical disc.

Claim 17 (New) The playback apparatus of claim 16, wherein:

the playlist information includes a playback authorization setting that indicates which playback of the video stream, the audio stream, and the subtitle stream is authorized or not; and

the virtual package includes a playback authorization setting that is different from the playback authorization setting defined by the playlist information of the optical disc.

Claim 18 (New) The playback apparatus of claim 17, further comprising a transmitting unit operable to transmit an authorization request to a server apparatus, the authorization request indicating the combination of the content identifier read by the reading unit and the apparatus region code,

wherein, when the predetermined condition is satisfied, the server apparatus transmits an authorization response in reply to the authorization request, and

wherein, when the predetermined condition is not satisfied, the server apparatus transmits a non-authorization response.

Claim 19 (New) The playback apparatus of claim 18, wherein:

the server apparatus includes a playback authorization list including combinations of a

content identifier and a region code, each combination indicating that a content identified by a respective content identifier is allowed to be played back in a region identified by a respective region code; and

the predetermined condition is satisfied when the playback authorization list of the server includes the combination of the content identifier and the apparatus region code indicated by the authorization request transmitted by the transmitting unit.

Claim 20 (New) The playback apparatus of claim 18, wherein:

the server apparatus includes a plurality of pieces of date/time information, each piece of date/time information indicating, for a corresponding combination of a content identifier and a region code, a release date/time of a content identified by the content identifier for a region identified by the region code of the corresponding combination;

the authorization request transmitted from the transmitting unit to the server apparatus includes a combination of (i) a current time in a region to which the playback apparatus belongs, (ii) the content identifier of the content to be played back, and (iii) the apparatus region code; and

the predetermined condition is satisfied when the current time included in the authorization request is past the release date/time indicated in a piece of date/time information for a corresponding combination of the content identifier and the region code that is the same as the combination of the content identifier and the region code included in the authorization request.

Claim 21 (New) The playback apparatus of claim 18, wherein:

the server apparatus includes a plurality of pieces of distributor information, each piece of distribution information indicating, for a corresponding combination of a content identifier and a region code, a distributor for a region identified by the region code of the corresponding combination;

the authorization request transmitted from the transmitting unit to the server apparatus includes a combination of (i) the content identifier of the content to be played back, (ii) the

apparatus region code, and (iii) the disc region code; and

the predetermined condition is satisfied when a distributor indicated in a first piece of distributor information matches a distributor indicated in a second piece of distribution information, the first piece of distributor information indicating a distributor for a corresponding combination of the content identifier and the apparatus region code that is the same as the combination of the content identifier and the apparatus region code included in the authorization request, and the second piece of distributor information indicating a distributor for a corresponding combination of the content identifier and the disc region code that is the same as the combination of the content identifier and the disc region code included in the authorization request.